

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 3, replace the paragraphs beginning on line 4 through line 17 with the following amended paragraphs:

The present invention relates accordingly to a novel dispersion comprising particles of at least one active substance dispersed in an aqueous solution of a modified starch, wherein said dispersion has a pH value in the range [[5]] 7.5 to 10.

The invention further relates to a process of preparing a dispersion of the invention, which process comprises the steps of

- a) providing an aqueous solution of said modified starch,
- b) adding to said solution at least one active substance,
- c) treating the mixture thus obtained to prepare a dispersion of said at least one active substance in said aqueous solution comprising said modified starch, wherein the process further comprises a step
- d) of adjusting pH of said aqueous solution of said modified starch in the range [[5]] 7.5 to 10 before or after adding said at least one active substance.

Page 4, replace the paragraph beginning on line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

The process of the invention for preparation of the dispersion presents production advantages due to the reduced tendency of foaming in the dispersion. In the traditional process, the pH in the dispersion is much lower than neutral pH, normally about 3 to 5,

depending of the type of modified starch. It appears that when pH is adjusted in accordance with the invention to about [[5]] 7.5 to 10, e.g. about ~~6 to 10 or about 7 or~~ 7.5 to 9 or 9.5, the foam disappears much faster than during the traditional process.

Page 6, replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

In one preferred embodiment of the dispersion of the invention the modified starch is an n-octenyl succinyl acid modified starch, such as sodium octenyl succinate, in which case the pH value is ~~preferable 6 to 10, more preferably~~ [[7]] 7.5 to 9.

Page 6, replace the paragraph beginning on line 21 through page 7, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

In one embodiment of the invention it relates to a process for preparing microcapsules comprising at least one active substance embedded in a matrix material of a modified starch, which process comprises the steps of

- a) providing an aqueous solution of said modified starch,
  - b) adding to said solution said at least one active substance,
  - c) treating the mixture thus obtained to prepare a dispersion of particles of said at least one active substance in said aqueous solution comprising said modified starch,
- c1) finely dividing and drying the dispersion obtained in step c) to obtain a mass of particles each containing one single or a plurality of liquid or solid micro particles of said at least one active substance embedded in a matrix comprising said modified starch, wherein the process further comprises a step

d) of adjusting pH of the aqueous medium of modified starch to the range [[7]] 7.5 to 10 before or after adding said at least one active substance.